

Sheep and Wool

Utah sheep and lamb inventory on January 1, 1999 totaled 400,000 head, a decline of 20,000 head from 1998. Inventory of breeding sheep and lambs at the beginning of 1999 was 360,000 head, down 5 percent from 1998. Ewes one year old and older totaled 305,000 head, down 15,000 head from a year earlier. Rams over one year of age totaled 10,000 head, the same as January 1, 1998. Breeding replacement lambs, at 45,000 head, was 5,000 head less than the 1998 inventory. Market sheep and lambs for slaughter totaled 40,000 head. The 1998 lamb crop was estimated at 350,000 head, 20,000 head below the previous year.

Sheep and lamb operations totaled 1,500 in 1998, two hundred less than 1997. January 1, 1999 sheep and lamb inventory had an average value per head of \$100.00, down \$20.00 from the 1998 level. Utah's sheep inventory value totaled \$40.0 million, down 21 percent from the previous year.

Cash receipts during 1998 totaled \$19.4 million, 26 percent lower than the 1997 level. Marketings of sheep

and lambs totaled 33.2 million pounds, down 4 percent from the previous year. The average 1998 sheep price was \$27.00 per hundredweight (cwt), \$5.70 below the 1997 average. Lambs averaged \$67.80 per cwt during 1998 which was \$19.40 below the previous year.

Wool production totaled 3.2 million pounds during 1998, down 2 percent from the 1997 production level. Average fleece weight, at 9.4 pounds, was up 1 percent from the 1997 level.

NOTE: Sheep and lamb classifications for the inventory estimates were changed starting January 1, 1995. "Breeding sheep and lambs" replaced the old "stock sheep and lambs" estimates. Replacement lambs now include both ewe and ram lambs. "Market sheep and lambs" has replaced the old "sheep and lambs on feed" estimates. Market lamb estimates are by weight group. Both "breeding sheep and lambs" and "market sheep and lambs" include new crop lambs. New crop lambs are lambs born after September 30 the previous year on hand January 1. Prior to 1995, January estimates excluded the new crop lambs.

Sheep and Lambs: Farms, Inventory, and Value, Utah, January 1, 1992-99

Year	Operations With Sheep	All Sheep and Lambs on Farms January 1				
		Number ^{1/}	Value		Total Breeding ^{2/}	Total Market ^{3/}
			Per Head	Total		
	Number	1,000 Head	Dollars	1,000 Dollars 1,000	
1992	2,300	488	65.00	31,720	460	28
1993	2,100	490	81.00	39,690	450	40
1994	2,000	480	77.00	36,960	445	35
1995	2,000	470	84.00	39,480	400	70
1996	1,900	460	100.00	46,000	400	60
1997	1,700	440	110.00	48,400	395	45
1998	1,500	420	120.00	50,400	380	40
1999	^{4/}	400	100.00	40,000	360	40

^{1/} All sheep beginning January 1, 1995 includes new crop lambs. Previous published data did not. New crop lambs are lambs born after September 30 the previous year on hand January 1. ^{2/} Breeding sheep and lambs beginning January 1, 1995. ^{3/} Market sheep and lambs beginning January 1, 1995. ^{4/} Estimate published with January 1, 2000 sheep inventory.